

April 27, 2007

### **New Advisory Opinions**

On April 26, 2007, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on two new advisory opinions, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

#### **2007-7, Potential Conflicts of Interest for State Agency Board Members**

The Code of Ethics does not prohibit a Council on Developmental Disabilities member from participating in government-funded programs or obtaining services from federal or state agencies. This holds true even if such services are administered by non-government agencies with business interests before the Council, as they are government-funded and available to any member of the public with a disability (therefore, not considered a "gift" under the Code). It is, however, impermissible for a government program to be enhanced by the providing organization and given to a Council member (e.g., a lobster dinner instead of state-funded meatloaf). This would be considered a gift under the Code, subject to applicable restrictions.

#### **2007-8, Outside Employment of the Speaker of the House**

While the Code of Ethics does not prohibit the Speaker of the House (Speaker) from engaging in outside employment, the Code requires that there can be no use of his office or position to obtain financial gain. Under the unique facts of the Speaker's situation, the Board concluded that it would be an inappropriate use of the Speaker's public office and position for him to solicit funds from lobbyists in connection with his outside employment.

### **Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs) – Deadline Reminder**

Statements of Financial Interests are due from required filers on May 1, 2007. Download the forms from OSE's Web site, or [click here](#) to file online.

### **Online Ethics Training**

Thanks to those of you who have already checked out our exciting new online training and who have provided positive and valuable feedback. The online training is available from the OSE's home page, [www.ct.gov/ethics](http://www.ct.gov/ethics). Now your agency personnel can receive a thorough overview of Part I of the Code at any time from any computer. You can check their participation by asking for copies of the printable certificates generated at the end of the training module. Click "Online Ethics Training" in the left-hand navigation section of our home page to begin. Note, use of this training is not mandatory; simply another tool at your disposal.

(As a practical matter, in order to utilize the "resume where you left off" feature of the training, employees' computers should have the latest version of Flash player enabled. This Flash player is available for free download at: [http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1\\_Prod\\_Version=ShockwaveFlash](http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash) upon approval of your IT/IS staff.)

Sincerely,

Meredith Trimble

Director of Education  
Office of State Ethics